

Washington, DC - Congressman Charles Gonzalez (TX-20), Chairman of the Committee on House Administration's task force overseeing matters related to the 2006 election in Florida's 13th Congressional District, recently sent official notice to all parties involved with the contested election. In his letter, Gonzalez calls for both parties to meet with members of the task force to discuss how the panel will "orderly and expeditiously investigate this matter and report its findings back to the full committee" on House Administration.

The text of Chairman Gonzalez's letter:

Re: FL-13 Election Contest - Christine Jennings v. Vern Buchanan

Pursuant to Rule X of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives and section 393 of the Federal Contested Election Act, the Clerk of the House has transmitted to the Committee on House Administration for its consideration a Notice of Contest filed by Christine Jennings relating to the election for the Office of Representative in the One Hundred Tenth Congress from the 13th District of Florida. The Chairwoman Juanita Millender-McDonald of the Committee has referred the matter pursuant to Rule 16 of the Committee Rules to a three member ad hoc election panel and has appointed me as Chairman of that panel. The Chairwoman has charged the panel with the responsibility to investigate this matter and report its findings and recommendation back to the full Committee for its consideration.

In response to the Notice of Contest, the contestee Vern Buchanan has filed a Motion to Dismiss which motion is now pending before the panel for its consideration. Prior to the panel's consideration of that motion and prior to the panel granting permission for compelled discovery to commence under section 386 of the Federal Contested Election Act, I intend to conference with my colleagues on the panel to consider how the panel can orderly and expeditiously investigate this matter and report its findings back to the full committee. I am requesting your presence at that conference on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at 10 a.m. in 1309 Longworth House Office Building. I will soon forward to you a request for information and a list of questions that the panel would like you to be prepared to address at that time.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Charles A. Gonzalez